



U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration

NHTSA
People Saving People
www.nhtsa.dot.gov

What a Difference Five Years Made!

1994–Present

Transformed NHTSA Through Continuous Improvement (Part 2)

Goal 11: Effectively manage and use information resources.

The Procurement/Budget Process Improvement Team expanded use of technology to facilitate the procurement process. The team encouraged the use of e-mail as the primary means for Contracting Officer's Technical Representatives (COTRs), Contract Coordinators, and Contract Specialists to communicate. This provided a more timely response and record of issues discussed. The team also established the use of electronic forms generation software to prepare procurement requests and other standard procurement forms.

1996. The Office of Information Resource Management (OIRM) converted Administration and associated offices (NOA, NAD, NPS, NPP, NSC, NTS, NCC, Public Affairs, and Executive Secretariat) to Novell 4.1 from Banyan. The conversion greatly improved network traffic flow between program areas, standardized on a single system to reduce administrative and support costs, and provided better integration of network software.

October 1, 1995. The Office of Information Resource Management (OIRM) inaugurated public access to highway safety and public health information on-line on the World Wide Web. By June 28, 1996, the Agency initiated a new look to the Web pages. Information was reorganized for easier locating and navigating and the site was made more user-friendly. Improved graphics made the site more appealing in addition to an easier download capability. Further enhancements and improvements included a search capability for the entire site and video clips of Vince and Larry, the crash dummies, as well as crash tests of 1995 and 1996 vehicles.

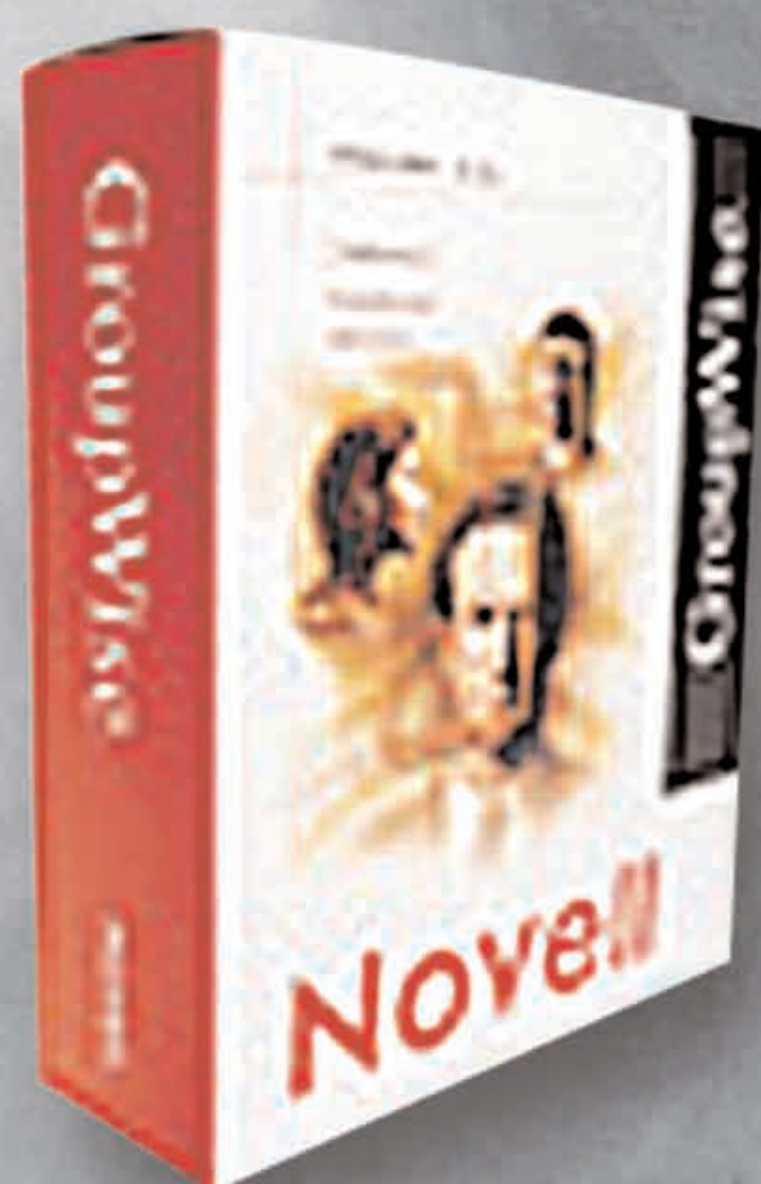
Government Executive magazine selected the web site as one of the 10 Best Federal Web Sites in 1998. In less than three years, NHTSA has gone from establishing a basic introductory Internet presence to a site averaging 6 million hits per month.

1998. OIRM staff members introduced NHTSA's first Intranet site, "Webster," exclusively for NHTSA personnel use and made Year 2000 system reports available on it. The system provides planning and scheduling information for subsequent Y2K Phases in order to track individual system progress and highlight any schedule slippages.

1997. Significant software improvements began. The agency began the migration from Windows 3.1 to Windows 95, giving agency users access to the next generation of software that is twice as fast as Windows 3.1 applications. NHTSA's standardization on this system will ensure compatibility with future systems. Throughout FY 1997 and into FY 1998, NHTSA installed the Windows 95 desktop operating system in all regional offices and headquarters.

NHTSA's standardized E-mail application, GroupWise, was upgraded to version 5.1. Users were provided the same E-Mail and Calendar features as GroupWise 4.1 with many additional features such as Shared Folders, Proxy Features, and Conservation Threading. Conversion from Novell WordPerfect 6.1 to Corel 6.1 was essential to get support and product updates once Novell sold WordPerfect to Corel. Quattro Pro spreadsheet software, included in the suite, gave NHTSA a standard in this area with better integration with WordPerfect. The Corel Suite also came with Netscape software, giving users access to the World Wide Web.

Under the leadership of the Associate Administrator for Administration, the NOA staff has made remarkable inroads in improving NHTSA's daily operations on a day-to-day basis!



"Team work is the heart of any successful operation. When we set our goals in the Strategic Plan back in 1994, we built in a foundation that empowered the NHTSA employee and sparked individual creativity and innovation. The resulting accomplishments of working as a team over the past half decade have been nothing short of magnificent. Everyone at NHTSA should feel we are moving forward. Because we are. Each one of you should feel very proud of your individual contributions to the overall momentum that is making highways safer for us all. We are, after all, people saving people. It's what we do – and what all of you do so well."

**Congratulations and Thank You to All Members of
the NHTSA Family for a Job Well Done!**

Signatures of NHTSA staff members:
Rae A. Weinstein, Rae Tyson, Ray Owens, John...
William H. W... Ken Weinstein, John...
Al... Daily